(e) whether sale of land is a part of revival package approved by BIFR; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India had extended all the reliefs and concessions required for the implementation of BIFR sanctioned revival scheme of BBVL. BIFR had reviewed the implementation of the scheme in a hearing held on 2.11.1999. BIFR observed that the company had continued to incur heavy losses in spite of the implementation of the scheme mainly due to drastic reduction in the prices of its products and adverse business scenario. It directed the management to explore possibility of collaboration with another local or foreign company whereby the benefits of technology could be obtained. It further directed that the possibility of joint venture with a private sector company as a co-promoter may be explored. Action with regard to joint venture formation is already on.

(e) and (f) The sale of land is not a part of revival scheme sanctioned by BIFR. As the company was facing grave financial crisis, it decided to explore possibilities of disposal of its Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) raising resources after taking the prior permission of various concerned agencies including BIFR. However, no final decision has been taken on this so far.

Ban on telecasting of obscene programmes

405. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken/proposed to ban obscene telecast and programmes that are against the Indian ethics and culture; and

(b) other actions proposed to enforce strict codes for foreign channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BORADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the programme of satellite channels, when transmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the prescribed programme and advertisement codes. In case of violation by any channel of these codes, the Ministry will notify such channel for prohibiting its

retransmission by the cable operators. Enforcement of the provisions of the Act rests with the authorized officer i.e. DMs, SDMs, Commissioner of Police and other officers as may be notified by the Central/State Governments. The issue of effective implementation of the provisions of the Cable Act has been taken up with the State Governments.

Providing news to common man through DD

†406. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is not able to provide the news of incidents taking place throughout the country to common man at the earliest and in an efficient manner as compared to other private companies in electronic media;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) whether it is a fact that private sector companies have played prime role as compared to Doordarshan in providing news to the people on the recent severe earthquake in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir. It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has been giving extensive coverage to the happenings in Gujarat right from the time the devasting earthquake rocked the State on 26.01.2001. The calamity and its aftermath, including the relief measures being taken by the Government and other agencies, are continuously and effectively being highlighted in the various programmes of Doordarshan and the news bulletins being telecast on its National Network, News Channel and the Regional Kendras.

Violation of provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952

407. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.